



Legislative Update

Office of Assemblymember
Sandré R. Swanson
September 2, 2009

Overview

- Budget Update
- “Race to the Top” Proposals
- Current Legislation
- Upcoming Legislative Ideas
- Other Matters

Budget Update

- The Legislature and the Governor approved the “May Revise” of the State Budget at the end of July.
- Facing a significant shortfall between revenues and expenditures, the revision drastically cut spending.

Budget Update

- *The cuts to education:*
- Reduced 2008-09 funding for categorical programs by \$1.6 billion from the February budget agreement.
- Reduced 2009-10 revenue limit payments by \$4.0 billion compared to the 2009-10 Budget enacted in February and adjusts the revenue limit deficit factor to 18.4 percent for school districts and 18.6 percent for county offices of education.
- Deferred \$1.7 billion of school districts' revenue limit payments from 2009-10 to 2010-11.
- Counted \$402 million in 2009-10 funding for the Quality Education Investment Act (QEIA) toward the Proposition 98 minimum funding guarantee. The budget agreement extends the QEIA program by one year, to 2014-15.

Budget Update

- Provided \$496 million in 2009-10 Proposition 98 funding for home-to-school transportation – a reduction of approximately 20 percent from the \$618.7 million provided for the program in 2008-09.
- Reduced 2009-10 funding by \$80 million for Basic Aid school districts' categorical programs.
- Allowed school districts to reduce the school year by up to five instructional days through 2012-13.
- Suspended the requirement that school districts purchase newly adopted instructional materials through 2012-13.
- Allowed school districts to sell surplus property and use the proceeds for General Fund purposes through 2011.
- Suspended the High School Exit Exam graduation requirement for students with disabilities beginning in 2009-10.

Budget Update

- Assemblymember Swanson voted against these provisions, but they did pass.
- Our office is exploring methods of stabilizing and increasing education funding. We will inform the Board as soon as a plan coalesces.

Budget Update

- Sources of Information on the Budget:
 - Leginfo
 - www.leginfo.ca.gov
 - California Budget Project Department of Finance
 - www.ebudget.ca.gov/
 - California Budget Project
 - <http://www.cbp.org>
- EdSource
 - <http://www.edsource.org/>

“Race to the Top” Proposals

- In response to proposals by the Federal Secretary of Education, the Governor has proposed:
 - Adopting a merit pay system designed to reward effective teachers and incentivize work at low-performing campuses.
 - Abolishing the current cap on the number of charter schools that can open every year.
 - Forcing school districts to shut down or reconstitute the lowest-performing schools or turn them over to charter schools' independent management.
 - Allowing students at low-performing campuses to transfer to a school of their choosing.
 - Requiring school districts to consider student test data when evaluating teachers, something the federal government believes is prohibited under state law.

“Race to the Top” Proposals

- If adopted, California would become eligible for \$4.35 billion in federal grants.
- The Legislature will meet in a Special Session to discuss these proposals.
- Assemblymember Swanson has a number of concerns with these proposals: Some are simply symbolic, some are poorly thought-out; but all of them are rushed.

Current Legislation

- AB 788
- AB 791
- AB 980
- AB 1377
- AB 572 (Brownley)

AB 788

Status

- Would have prohibited the Superintendent of Public Instruction from transferring funds to charter schools in OUSD.
- Held under submission in Assembly Committee on Education.
- Local control obviated the need for this bill.

AB 791

Status

- Would have returned full control of the District to the School Board.
- State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell did return control at the end of June.
- Our bill kept up the pressure. The Assemblymember considers this a success.

AB 980

Status

- Would have required charter schools located within the District to pay a prorated amount of the annual payment made by the District on the State loan.
- Failed in the Senate Education Committee, though we did receive Senator Hancock's vote.

AB 1377

Status

- Would have provided a 180-day window for the District to correct audit findings before assessment of financial penalties.
- Held under submission to the Assembly Appropriations committee, as part of the process in adopting the May Revision to the State Budget.

AB 572 (Brownley)

- Charter school records disclosure.
- Passed the Assembly by a 51-29 vote on May 28th. Assemblymember Swanson voted for it.
- Held on the floor of the Senate. Will not become law this session.

Upcoming Legislative Ideas

- Early Childhood Education Funding
- Teaching Credentials
- Other Ideas

Early Childhood Education Funding

- Our office is working on a bill to provide more flexibility and, consequently, more funding for early childhood education programs.
- We are not yet committed, but the Capitol Office currently is vetting the proposal.

Teaching Credentials

- Our office also is considering legislation to broaden the usefulness of a program that encourages qualified private school teachers to teach in public schools.
- Likewise, we have not yet committed to this proposal.

Other Ideas

- We are happy to consider other ideas from the Board, District staff, and the broader community.